NATURAL RESOURCES
TECHNICAL NOTE

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1991 WHITE-TAILED DEER HARVEST REPORT

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Registered deer kills in 1991 indicate an increase in harvest, reversing a decline that began in 1986. This is the third year for mandatory deer registration, which provides a good comparison of harvest data (Tables 1 and 2).

The registered harvest for 1991 was 18,463 deer. In 1990, 16,166 deer were registered. This reflects an increased harvest for 1991 of 14.2 per cent or 2,297 deer when compared with last year's data.

An increase in the kill was anticipated for the following reasons:

1) Bone marrow fat content data collected during 1991 indicated that our deer herd was in much better condition than in recent years. Therefore over-winter survival would likely be high.
2) Reproduction among yearling does jumped from 77 fetuses/100 does in 1990 to 148 fetuses/100 does in 1991. Reproduction from adult does increased from 131 fetuses/100 does in 1990 to 172 fetuses/100 does in 1991.
3) During the opening weekend and first week of the season, the weather was favourable for hunting. During the latter part of the hunt most of Nova Scotia had snow, resulting in increased hunter success due to good tracking conditions.

Herd condition as reflected by bone marrow fat content and a higher reproduction rate indicates that our deer came through the winter of 1990–91 in good condition and that numbers are likely below the carrying capacity of the habitat. If this is the case and not just due to mild and favourable weather conditions, it can be expected that our deer herd should grow and result in an increased hunter success and harvest next fall. The status of the overwintering population will be confirmed in the results of the province-wide deer pellet group count, which is carried out each spring.

Once again in 1991 bow and black powder hunters accounted for less than 1 per cent of the recreational harvest of deer throughout the province.

Note: This report does not include deer taken by Native (subsistence) hunters, road kills, or poaching. A significant additional kill, which we are unable to quantify at this time, can likely be attributed to these human-caused mortality factors.

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Table 1. *Harvested deer, registered by week and county, in Nova Scotia for 1991.*

County	September 28–October 12				October 25 & October 26				October 28–November 2			
	Male	Female	Unknown	Total	Male	Female	Unknown	Total	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Lunenburg	8	8	0	16	171	154	0	325	195	216	0	411
Queens	2	2	0	4	67	73	0	10	90	93	0	183
Shelburne	1	2	0	3	76	74	1	151	78	65	0	143
Yarmouth	2	2	0	4	98	66	0	164	94	66	0	160
Digby	0	1	0	1	42	26	0	68	54	45	0	99
Annapolis	2	1	0	3	63	73	0	136	98	93	0	191
Kings	1	2	0	3	107	92	0	199	102	88	0	190
West	16	18	0	34	624	558	1	1183	711	666	0	1377
Halifax	5	3	0	8	121	140	0	261	124	114	0	238
Hants	2	4	0	6	166	193	0	359	148	168	0	316
Cumberland	2	1	0	3	114	137	1	252	91	123	0	214
Colchester	3	6	0	9	138	145	0	283	131	123	0	254
Pictou	5	1	0	6	115	117	0	232	100	110	0	210
Antigonish	1	1	0	2	56	49	0	105	52	48	0	100
Guysborough	1	1	0	2	64	75	0	139	98	106	0	204
East	19	17	0	36	774	856	1	1631	744	792	0	1536
Inverness	5	2	0	7	121	171	0	292	127	133	0	260
Victoria	0	0	0	0	26	16	0	42	20	34	1	55
Cape Breton	1	4	0	5	78	95	1	174	75	87	0	162
Richmond	6	2	0	8	149	165	0	314	117	120	0	237
C.B. Island	12	8	0	20	374	447	1	822	339	374	1	714
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Province	47	43	0	90	1772	1861	3	3636	1794	1833	1	3628

County	November 4–November 9				November 11–November 16				November 18–November 23			
	Male	Female	Unknown	Total	Male	Female	Unknown	Total	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Lunenburg	197	144	0	341	153	101	0	254	120	88	0	208
Queens	103	67	0	170	93	59	0	152	71	49	0	120
Shelburne	94	58	0	152	98	54	0	152	57	38	0	95
Yarmouth	93	44	0	137	45	49	0	94	57	41	0	98
Digby	4	32	0	72	54	20	0	74	31	34	0	65
Annapolis	98	83	1	182	99	67	0	166	71	51	0	122
Kings	93	73	0	166	91	50	0	141	65	38	0	103
West	718	501	1	1220	633	400	0	1033	472	339	0	811
Halifax	119	84	0	203	120	52	0	172	96	52	0	148
Hants	132	82	0	214	121	81	0	202	118	75	0	193
Cumberland	106	68	0	174	90	53	0	143	88	60	0	148
Colchester	138	88	0	226	109	75	0	184	103	76	0	179
Pictou	114	59	0	173	87	73	0	160	89	58	0	147
Antigonish	53	32	0	85	45	37	0	82	31	16	0	47
Guysborough	93	63	0	156	53	34	0	87	57	33	0	90
East	755	476	0	1231	625	405	0	1030	582	370	0	952
Inverness	97	62	0	159	103	75	0	178	85	37	0	122
Victoria	27	12	0	39	27	25	0	52	34	5	0	39
Cape Breton	70	36	1	107	63	42	0	105	84	27	0	111
Richmond	87	78	0	165	82	40	0	122	80	41	0	121
C.B. Island	281	188	1	470	275	182	0	457	283	110	0	393
Unknown	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	1
Province	1754	1165	2	2921	1534	988	0	2522	1337	820	0	2157

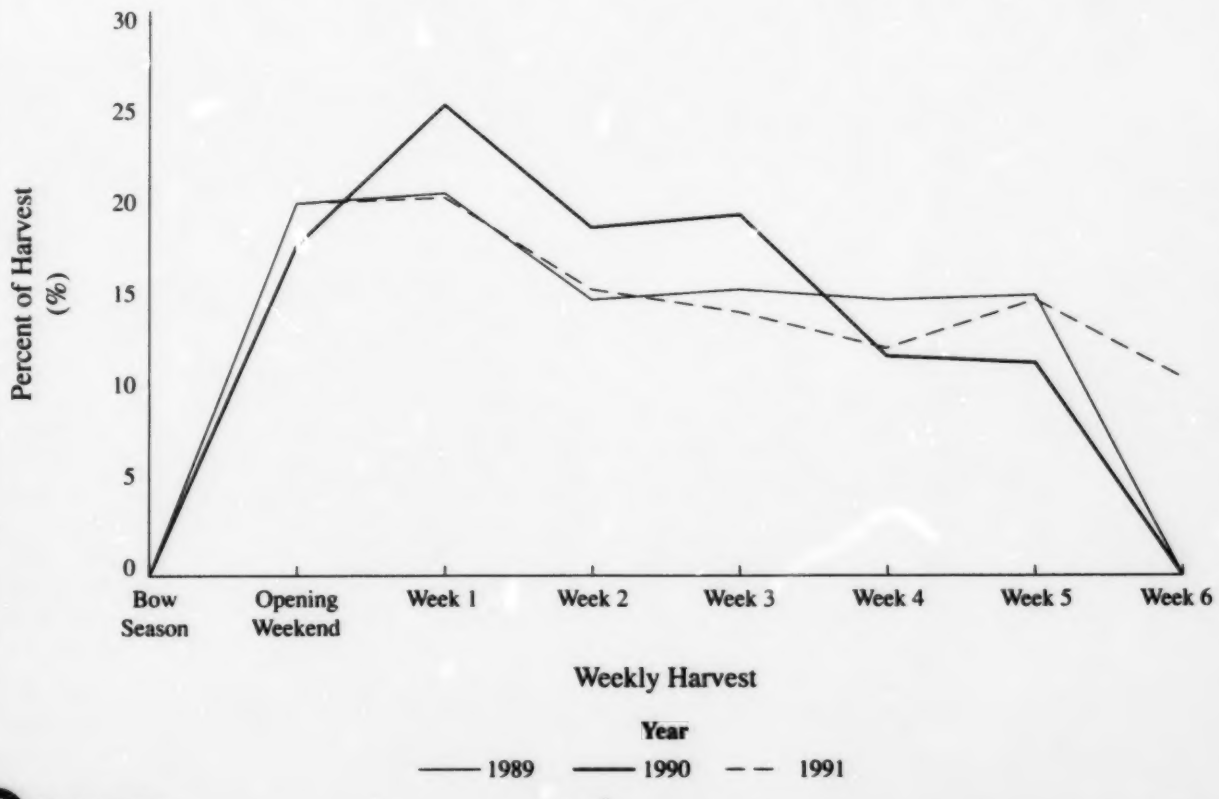
Table 1 continued

County	November 25–November 30				December 2–December 7				Total Season Harvest			
	Male	Female	Unknown	Total	Male	Female	Unknown	Total	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Lunenburg	91	53	0	144	84	99	0	183	1019	863	0	1882
Queens	58	31	0	89	46	44	0	90	530	418	0	948
Shelburne	29	12	0	41	25	14	0	39	458	317	1	776
Yarmouth	28	17	0	45	30	33	0	63	447	318	0	765
Digby	29	24	0	53	33	30	0	63	283	212	0	495
Annapolis	37	40	0	77	56	53	0	109	524	461	1	986
Kings	67	46	0	113	75	78	0	153	601	467	0	1068
West	339	223	0	562	349	351	0	700	3862	3056	2	6920
Halifax	60	36	0	96	47	46	0	93	692	527	0	1219
Hants	84	59	0	143	75	85	0	160	846	747	0	1593
Cumberland	71	43	0	114	62	80	0	142	625	564	1	1190
Colchester	59	63	0	122	67	90	0	157	748	666	0	1414
Pictou	49	56	0	105	71	92	0	163	630	566	0	1196
Antigonish	39	18	0	57	31	26	0	57	308	227	0	535
Guysborough	43	33	0	76	41	50	0	91	450	395	0	845
East	405	308	0	713	394	469	0	863	4299	3692	1	7992
Inverness	78	55	0	133	87	93	0	180	703	628	0	1331
Victoria	20	13	0	33	24	28	0	52	178	133	1	312
Cape Breton	47	16	0	63	33	35	0	68	451	342	2	795
Richmond	37	36	0	73	35	34	0	69	593	516	0	1109
C.B. Island	182	120	0	302	179	190	0	369	1925	1619	3	3547
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0
Province	926	651	0	1577	922	1010	0	1932	10087	8370	6	18463

Table 2. ***Comparison of registered deer harvest by county in Nova Scotia for 1989, 1990, and 1991.***

County	1989				1990				1991			
	Male	Female	Unknown	Total	Male	Female	Unknown	Total	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Lunenburg	1328	1214	0	2542	847	703	0	1550	1019	863	0	1882
Queens	724	673	0	1397	465	297	0	762	530	418	0	948
Shelburne	672	593	0	1265	382	226	0	608	458	317	1	776
Yarmouth	659	727	0	1386	362	286	1	649	447	318	0	765
Digby	470	382	0	852	264	131	0	395	283	212	0	495
Annapolis	846	780	0	1626	502	329	0	831	524	461	1	986
Kings	803	673	0	1476	541	375	0	916	601	467	0	1068
West	5502	5042	0	10544	3363	2347	1	5711	3862	3056	2	6920
Halifax	807	710	0	1517	628	437	2	1067	692	527	0	1219
Hants	1123	1068	0	2191	773	623	1	1397	846	747	0	1593
Cumberland	1008	981	0	1989	623	455	3	1081	625	654	1	1190
Colchester	1036	1019	0	2955	700	504	1	1205	748	666	0	1414
Pictou	864	815	0	1679	619	429	1	1049	630	566	0	1196
Antigonish	350	304	0	654	292	209	1	502	308	227	0	535
Guysborough	601	495	0	1096	421	270	0	691	450	395	0	845
East	5789	5392	0	11181	4056	2927	9	6992	4299	3692	1	7992
Inverness	1082	865	0	1947	709	554	0	1263	703	628	0	1331
Victoria	412	353	0	765	195	149	0	344	178	133	1	312
Cape Breton	776	560	0	1336	493	274	0	767	451	342	2	795
Richmond	806	649	0	1455	573	500	5	1078	593	516	0	1109
C.B. Island	3076	2427	0	5503	1970	1477	5	3452	1925	1619	3	3547
Unknown	7	4	0	11	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	4
Province	14367	12861	0	27228	9396	6755	15	16166	10087	8370	6	18463

Figure 1. ***Registered Weekly Deer Harvest-Nova Scotia Percent of total harvest 1989-1991***



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